Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

809

May 24, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

We are writing to reinforce the strong bipartisan consensus among policymakers, industry participants, and analysts that the success of the broadband marketplace stems from policies that encourage competition, private investment, and legal certainty. The regulatory framework first adopted in 1998 by the Clinton Administration's FCC has resulted in broadband industry infrastructure investment of approximately \$60 billion per year. In the last decade, multiple providers and the hundreds of thousands of workers they employ have brought high speed connections to 95 percent of U.S. households where two-thirds of Americans now access the Internet through broadband at home.

Still, much work remains to be done. According to the National Broadband Plan, 14 million Americans lack broadband access altogether, many underserved areas need more robust broadband facilities, and both wired and wireless broadband services require increasing speeds. As the Plan notes, that work will require as much as \$350 billion in additional private investment. Generating those enormous sums from industry, and the good-paying jobs they produce, will require a continued commitment to the stable regulatory environment that has existed for the last dozen years.

Because of this, we have serious concerns about the proposed new regulatory framework for broadband and the Internet. The expanded FCC jurisdiction over broadband that has been proposed and the manner in which it would be implemented are unprecedented and create regulatory uncertainty. The controversy surrounding that approach will likely serve as a distraction from what should be our Nation's foremost communications priority: bringing broadband to every corner of America, getting every American online, and providing the high speed connections needed to realize the promises of telemedicine, distance learning, and other forms of consumer empowerment.

The continued deployment and adoption of broadband, the growing importance of the Internet to our constituents, and the significant contributions this will make to our economy should be the FCC's primary focus right now. The uncertainty this proposal creates will jeopardize jobs and deter needed investment for years to come. The significant regulatory impact of reclassifying broadband service is not something that should be taken lightly and should not be done without additional direction from Congress. We urge you not to move

forward with a proposal that undermines critically important investment in broadband and the jobs that come with it.

Thank you for your attention to this letter, and we look forward to working with you in a constructive way to address these matters.

Sincerely,

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Mr. Lay Clay

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- Rep. Gregory Meeks
- Rep. Loretta Sanchez
- Rep. Michael McMahon
- Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson
- Rep. Alcee Hastings
- Rep. Tim Holden
- Rep. Joe Baca
- Rep. William Lacy Clay
- Rep. Charles Gonzalez
- Rep. Bennie Thompson
- Rep. Yvette Clarke
- Rep. G.K. Butterfield
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- Rep. Bobby Rush
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- Rep. Solomon Ortiz
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- Rep. Charlie Wilson
- Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper
- Rep. Charlie Melancon
- Rep. Walt Minnick
- Rep. David Scott
- Rep. Ed Pastor
- Rep. Mike Ross
- Rep. Travis Childers
- Rep. Marcia Fudge
- Rep. Joe Crowley
- Rep. Robert Brady
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- Rep. Dennis Cardoza
- Rep. Chaka Fattah
- Rep. Tim Bishop
- Rep. Sanford Bishop
- Rep. John Tanner
- Rep. Jim Costa
- Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick
- Rep. Gabrielle Giffords
- Rep. Gene Taylor
- Rep. Dennis Moore
- Rep. Elijah Cummings
- Rep. Rick Larsen
- Rep. Harry Teague
- Rep. Corrine Brown



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop U.S. House of Representatives 306 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. U.S. House of Representatives 2429 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop, Jr.:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Dan Boren U.S. House of Representatives 216 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boren:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Leonard Boswell U.S. House of Representatives 1427 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boswell:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable F. Allen Boyd, Jr. U.S. House of Representatives 1227 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boyd:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Robert A. Brady U.S. House of Representatives 206 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brady:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Bobby N. Bright U.S. House of Representatives 1205 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bright:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Corrine Brown U.S. House of Representatives 2336 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brown:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable George K. Butterfield U.S. House of Representatives 413 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Dennis Cardoza U.S. House of Representatives 1224 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cardoza:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Russ Carnahan U.S. House of Representatives 1710 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carnahan:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Chris Carney U.S. House of Representatives 416 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carney:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Travis Childers U.S. House of Representatives 1708 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Childers:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke U.S. House of Representatives 1029 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable William Lacy Clay U.S. House of Representatives 2418 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Clay:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Jim Costa U.S. House of Representatives 1314 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Costa:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Joseph Crowley U.S. House of Representatives 2404 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crowley:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Henry Cuellar U.S. House of Representatives 336 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cuellar:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings U.S. House of Representatives 2235 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cummings:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Kathy Dahlkemper U.S. House of Representatives 516 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dahlkemper:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Lincoln Davis U.S. House of Representatives 410 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

I look forward to a continuing dialogue about how best to improve our 21st Century communications networks.

Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Steve Driehaus U.S. House of Representatives 408 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Driehaus:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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December 15, 2010

The Honorable Chaka Fattah U.S. House of Representatives 2301 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fattah:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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December 15, 2010

The Honorable Marcia L. Fudge U.S. House of Representatives 1513 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fudge:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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Sincerely,



December 15, 2010

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords U.S. House of Representatives 1728 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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December 15, 2010

The Honorable Charles A. Gonzalez U.S. House of Representatives 303 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gonzalez:

Earlier this year, you expressed "serious concerns" about the impact that reclassifying broadband as a Title II telecommunications service might have on private investment and jobs. I very much appreciate hearing your views on this issue and I strongly share your commitment to bringing better broadband to all Americans. As you may have seen earlier this month, I circulated a proposal for high-level rules of the road to preserve the open Internet that has served so well as a platform for economic growth, innovation, and free expression. That proposal is designed to foster precisely the kind of continued private investment you emphasized and it does not call for the reclassification of broadband. Instead, the proposal relies on the existing legal framework that you commended in your letter.

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